Our Daughters & Hijab

Sheikh
`Abd Al-Khaliq Ash-Sharif

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كيف نربي بناتنا على الحجاب؟

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We would like to draw to the attention of our readers that all quoted Qur'anic verses are taken from `Abdullah Yusuf `Ali's translation of the Holy Qur'an.

Finally, all praise and thanks are due to Allah, without Whose Help and Guidance nothing can be accomplished.

General director

Sheikh Muhammad `Abdu

Introduction

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds Who created people in order to worship Him, and Who established for them a religion that embraces all goodness in this life and the life to come. May peace be upon the most honored of Messengers, Prophet Muhammad, his household and his Companions.

Dear honorable father and most loving mother, to you I send the courteous greetings of Allah which is peace. All of us need to remember Allah's Grace as it is He Who from the depths of darkness has led us forth into light, guided us to the true religion of our father Ibrahim, and sent to us His most precious gift, most gracious mercy, and the glittering light - Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Responsibility towards Children

Honorable fathers and mothers! Children are a great blessing. Allah says,

> ﴾*Wealth and sons are allurements of the life of this world.*﴿
>
> (Al-Kahf: 46)

They are our offspring, the dearest to our hearts and about whom we shall be asked before Allah. The Prophet (pbuh) said,

> *"Everyone of you is a guardian, and responsible for what is in his custody ... a husband is a guardian of his family and is responsible for it; a lady is a guardian of her husband's house and is responsible for it ..."*

Therefore, if parents raise their children well according to what pleases Allah they will, in return, receive the reward for this effort. In fact, they will be rewarded for everyone else who will be guided by

their offspring until the Day of Judgement and vice versa. Allah says,

> *﴿But the things that endure, good deeds, are best in the sight of thy Lord, as rewards, and best as (the foundation for) hopes.﴾*
>
> (Al-Kahf: 46)

Daughters in Islam

The Prophet (pbuh) said

> *"Any Muslim who has two daughters and has been good to them as long as he accompanied them, they will cause him to enter paradise."*

Also, he (pbuh) said,

> *"Whoever had three daughters, three sisters, two daughters, or two sisters and disciplined them and had been good to them, he will enter Paradise."*

Anyone who has a heart that feels and a mind that understands will realize fully the significance of the Prophet's weighty words, which ask us to look after daughters in accordance with Allah's orders and injunctions.

Allah has created mankind, both males and females, and assigned for each sex a suitable position and function in the human society. Allah, Most High, says,

> ﴾*The nature on which Allah has made mankind: no change (there is) in the work (wrought) by Allah: that is the true Religion: but most among mankind know not.*﴿
>
> (Ar-Rum: 30)

The need of one sex for the other and the mutual inclination between them are from nature. Allah, the Almighty, says,

> ﴾*Fair in the eyes of men is the love of things they covet: women and sons; heaped-up hoards of gold and silver.*﴿
>
> (An-Nisa': 14)

This mutual inclination or liking, if not controlled, can lead to the ruin of the society. The Messenger (pbuh) said,

> *"I have not left behind a trial which is harder on men than (the trial of) women. Assuredly, the first cause of the destruction of the Children of Israel was women."*

My sister in Islam! You are the pure womb which will carry the coming baby whom Allah wants to protect along with the lineage of all human beings. So that He has surrounded you, in particular, with the gentle boundaries of His Rules.

What is equality?

Nowadays we hear women asking for equality, but what does this mean? Islam treats men and women as equals. Allah says,

> ﴿*For Muslim men and women, for believing men and women ...*﴾
>
> (Al-Ahzab: 35)

This clearly emphasizes that there is no discrimination between men and women in Islam. Allah, Most High, says,

> ﴿*And their Lord hath accepted of them, and answered them: 'Never will I suffer to be lost the work of any of you, be he male or female: ye are members, one of another ...'*﴾
>
> (Al `Imran: 195)

Is there a better equality than that? Does equality mean that the woman is free to unveil herself and

expose her attractions? Does equality mean the intermingling of men and women with no limits? Does it mean the mother's negligence of her children that may lead them to go astray? Is it equality to allow a woman to be alone with some men who are not her *Mahraim* (prohibited degrees in marriage)?

The deceit of the harem age

Some people express the idea that abiding by Allah's Rules is a kind of retreat to the backward age of the harem in which the woman was imprisoned in her household and deceived by her husband who did all that he wished, even if forbidden, without being judged or punished. Our answer to this is that the whole matter is based on biased deceit. Islam treats men and women equally with regard to crimes and guilt. Many verses in the Qur'an emphasize this quality,

> ﴿*The woman and the man guilty of fornication, flog each of them with a hundred stripes ...*﴾
>
> (An-Nur: 2)

> ﴿*As to the thief, male or female, cut off his or her hands ...*﴾
>
> (Al-Ma'idah: 38)

﴾*(With the result) that Allah has to punish the hypocrites, men and women ...*﴿

(Al-Ahzab: 73)

Islam does not discriminate between people on the basis of sex, race or color because it is not a religion founded by man. Rather, it is the revelation sent down by Allah, the Perfect in Knowledge and Wisdom, to emphasize that the criterion of superiority is piety and righteousness. Allah, Most High, says,

﴾*Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you ...*﴿

(Al-Hujurat: 13)

The mother's kindness

My honorable sister and kind mother! How hard are the pains you have endured during pregnancy, at the moment of giving birth to your baby and throughout your life span, which you have sacrificed for your baby's upbringing. May Allah accept all your deeds and may He make them wholly devoted to His Service!

My sister, this is your daughter growing up gradually before your eyes and I know well that you

wish her all that is good, as it is said: there is no one loves others more than himself except his children. Therefore, Satan beguiles the mother into believing that her love for her daughter means to let her do whatever she wants or expose her beauty as she so chooses. Loving your daughter, dear sister, means to lead her to the way of Allah, and to guide her to the path of Paradise. Your role is the most important because you are the nearest to her. So,

1. Be an example, in performing prayers at the due time, in the way you converse with your husband, in caring about the cleanliness of your house, in keeping yourself away from the vices of backbiting and slander, in constantly reading the Ever-Glorious Qur'an, in wearing the *Hijab*, in avoiding mingling with men and in complying with the rest of the rulings of Islam.

2. Be cautious of the behavior of your relatives and neighbors, and choose carefully your friends and your daughter's friends because a person follows the example of his companion as the Prophet (pbuh) pointed out in a *hadith*.

3. In your speech with your daughter, remind her of Allah, of the necessity of submitting to Him, of

the greatness of Islam and of the traits of our divine *Shari`ah.* You should help her recognize the endless goodness, which the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) came with.

The father's role

Dear father! You are completely responsible for your daughters. So, beware of neglecting your children and do not think that daughters are the mother's responsibility. Do not neglect your daughter and her affairs. Do not encourage her to disobey her mother. Do not prefer her brother to her, but pay her heed and observe her conduct carefully. Speak with your daughter, and try to be not only her father but also her brother and close friend who advises her gently and wisely.

Dear Father! Surround your daughter with your love and kindness and acquaint her with the true essence of Islam. Implant in her heart the love of Allah, His Messenger (pbuh) and Islam. Deepen in her soul the fear of Hell and yearning for Paradise.

The brother's role

The brother's role towards his sister differs according to the age differences between them:

a. The elder brother: The problem with him is that he may only like to give orders, or he may neglect his sister's affairs laying the whole responsibility of her upbringing on her father. However, we wish that the elder brother would take care of his sister and direct her, yet in a mild, friendly way.

b. The brother of the same age: This brother, in particular, has a very important role in his sister's life. Problems often arise between them due to his irritability. It lies, therefore, with the parents to carefully watch the relation between them both (the brother and sister), and not to give a free hand to the brother.

Sincere advice for parents

1. Parents should separate their children, brothers and sisters, in bed (when sleeping) from the age of ten. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said,

   "Teach your children prayer when they are seven years of age, and beat them (lightly if they neglect it) when they are ten years of age, and separate between them in beds (when sleeping)."

2. The brother should not ask his sister to call a girl with whom he has some relationship on the phone, or to carry a message to her, whether this girl is a relative or colleague, unless the relationship between him and this girl is known to everybody as legal. Otherwise, he should know that he is encouraging his sister to act in the same way.

3. He should never bring to the house any obscene magazines or any other means of depravity. He should neither speak on the phone secretly or at a late hour in the night lest his sister should imitate him, or take his behavior as an excuse for hers.

Dear brother! Remember that you are the closest person to your sister. It is true that the *Hijab* is a divine obligation, yet you have to persuade her. We should all unite to bring her up according to the morals of Islam. What an excellent brother you will be if you succeed in doing that!

How Can We Get Our Daughters Accustomed to Hijab?

Islamic obligations, as all Muslims know, are imposed only on every mature, sane Muslim. Nevertheless, Islam urges Muslims to start to acquaint their children with prayer at the age of seven, and to beat them, but not harshly, if they neglect it at the age of ten. The Prophet's Companions got their children used to fasting before the age of puberty. Islam also allows Muslims to accompany their children to mosques and to *Hajj* even before the children reach puberty, and Allah rewards them for that. So, the question arises, how can we get our daughters accustomed to wearing *Hijab*?

Some suggestions:

1. To get small girls accustomed to wearing long clothes, even if they were wide trousers and blouse, when they are at seven years of age.

2. To make the girl accustomed to covering her hair by wearing a scarf, even a short one, on her head by the age of ten.

3. At the age of puberty the family should oblige the daughter to wear the *Hijab* and to abide by its specifications and conditions, which will be discussed later. These steps prepare the daughter to accept wearing the *Hijab* pleasantly and naturally. It is better to let her live as a human being and not as a machine that is directed automatically by pressing a switch.

4. The mother should carefully monitor the changes in her daughter's body and the development of her sexual maturity. This is because some girls seem older due to having a larger physique. They reach puberty at an earlier age. Therefore, the mother should not look on her daughter as a child, focusing only on her age while being oblivious of her growing maturity, because other people do not see her in the same way.

5. Some of the things that make wearing the *Hijab* easy for girls include the kind of upbringing she receives in her house, the Islamic morals and values implanted in her, along with her family's

glorification of and adherence to Allah's obligations and rules.

6. Appropriate comments should be made by the family on what the girl sees of women making a dazzling display of themselves, like the women of the former times of *Jahiliyyah* (pre-Islamic era), to arouse men's lustful desires.

7. Speaking about the distinct beauty of the *Hijab* and the gravity of shyness that it adds to the girl who wears it.

8. Emphasizing that: ﴿*Whoever holds in honor the Rites of Allah, (in the sacrifice of animals), such (honor) should come truly from piety of heart.*﴾ (Al-Hajj: 32), and that hastening to the obedience of Allah is a sign of strong faith, and shedding light on the Companions' example in fleeing to Allah's way in every thing they did.

9. Mentioning the many healthy benefits of wearing the *Hijab* such as protecting one's complexion and hair from the harmful rays of the sun, from the severe cold, etc.

10. The mother should clearly explain to her daughter the psychological and social advantages resulting

from wearing the *Hijab*. Explaining the benefits of wearing the *Hijab*, Allah says, ﴿*... that is most convenient, that they should be known (as such) and not molested ...*﴾ (Al-Ahzab: 59). Wearing the *Hijab*, indeed, reflects the girl's righteousness and accordingly protects her from the rudeness and insults of immoral and corrupt persons.

11. Before all this and along with it, we should implant in our daughter's hearts strong belief in Allah, the importance of obeying Him and the fruits of that to be found in attaining Paradise and fleeing from the Hell-fire by virtue of Allah's Mercy.

After all, we ask for the help of Allah, as true guidance is the Guidance of Allah, and He guides therewith whom He pleases.

Groundless claims

Dear Muslim sister! You will hear many frustrating words, and many questions and fears will echo in your mind. Your daughter will be subject to much blame and questioning and Satan will surely play his devilish role as usual.

Some of these expected questions and claims may be:

a. The girl is still young, so let her enjoy her life.

Your daughter will remain always young in your eyes, but you should know that she is not so before Allah Who judges her deeds as soon as she reaches the age of puberty. You, therefore, should assist her to obey Allah.

b. Non-compliance with the Islamic dress, the *Hijab*, is not a major sin.

This claim is by all means incorrect. Wearing the *Hijab* is a divine obligation on every pubescent, Muslim young woman. Not wearing it, according to its specifications and conditions, is one of the major sins. Besides, this leads to many harmful effects on both the girl and the whole society.

c. "I will wear the *Hijab* when Allah wills", girls often say.

This is exactly like the person who claims that he will pray when Allah wills, but all these are false claims. Allah has made it obligatory for all Muslim women to wear the *Hijab*. He wills that, and He orders us to obey whatever He wills. Thus, the

Muslim girl who does not wear the *Hijab* should know well that she is opposing Allah's Order.

d. Wearing the *Hijab* is a barrier against marriage.

This claim means that the bridegroom does not want to marry a religious young lady, so he also opposes Allah's *Shari`ah.* We want our daughters and their husbands to be completely obedient to Allah. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said,

> *"If a man whose religion and morals please you comes to you (to propose to your daughter), let him marry her."*

He (pbuh) addressed young men, in another *hadith*, saying,

> *"So you should marry the religious woman (otherwise) you will be a loser."*

Then, is the girl who does not wear the *Hijab* religious? In fact, her religiousness is incomplete, isn't it?

There are many other claims that can not be mentioned in this brief booklet, yet they are also mere baseless doubts and false psychological fears. For example, it is said that the *Hijab* causes some

kind of psychological suppression to the girl. But, how can such suppression be created out of applying the obligations of the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing!

It is also claimed that the *Hijab* hinders the girl's movement and activity in the society, the college, or at work. However, women wearing Islamic dress can be more active in these fields than those who do not wear the *Hijab*.

To Muslim sisters

Through satellite channels we hear many words, various talks and advertisements preoccupied with fashion, entertainment and seeking the ultimate pleasures of life; the religious woman who isolates herself from all these aspects is often labeled as backward.

Islam does not forbid wearing fashionable clothes, but it limits this to the woman's house and with her husband. Islam obliges the Muslim woman not to wear these clothes while she is outside of her home. Why should a woman wear such clothes that attract the attention of others?

Does she do this because she wants to be flattered by others? Does she believe these flattering

words? Evil men will speak flattering words to many women! Does she like such a thing because of some weakness in her character?

However, this does not mean that the Muslim woman should neglect her appearance or wear dirty, untidy clothes.

But let us return to the initial point of backwardness. First, we should ask, "What is meant by backwardness?"

Does it mean being at the rear of the train of scientific progress, technology, and human advancement? Or is it concerned wholly with the Muslim woman's *Hijab*, and covering and protecting her body?

Europe and USA are the two powers which stand for materialistic civilization. What are they teeming with?

Answer: Loss of honor, host of illegitimate children foundlings, large number of suicides, etc.

Here, a question arises: By comparison, do you consider obedience to Allah as a kind of backwardness?

If it is so, I declare myself very proudly the first of backward persons.

When speaking of life's pleasures and its enjoyment, I have some questions to ask: Does the *Hijab* deprive us of enjoying the good pleasures of life? Does it forbid us to seek knowledge and progress? What is the kind of pleasure, which the *Hijab* deprives us of? Does nakedness become essential to gaining the pleasure of life?

If parents hinder your will to wear the *Hijab*, you should kindly point out to them that no person should be obeyed in what displeases Allah. Through your good morals, decent behavior, and advancement in study, you can prove to your parents that the girl who sticks to wearing the *Hijab* is distinguished in everything. You can also prove to them that the *Hijab* symbolizes purity and chastity. Above all, it is an obedience to Allah Whose Obligations must not be opposed.

Prerequisites of valid *Hijab*

1. It should cover all the body except the face and the two palms of the hand.

2. It should not attract the attention of others by its striking colors.
3. It should not be transparent, in order not to reveal what is underneath.
4. It should not be tight so as not to describe the body's parts, but it should be wide.
5. Finally, the women's dress should not be similar to what is worn by men or by the disbelievers.

Hijab in the Qur'an and Sunnah

Allah, Most High, says,

﴾*And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments ...*﴿

(An-Nur: 31)

﴾*... And the believing women, that they should cast their outer garments over their persons (when out of doors): that is most convenient, that they should be known (as such) and not molested. And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.*﴿

(Al-Ahzab: 59)

In the *Sunnah*, we read the following *hadith*s:

"The most evil amongst women is she who displays her beauty (in front of men other than

her husband and unmarriageable relatives) and walks proudly. They are the hypocrites. They will never enter paradise except like the whitish crow."

And,

"I will not be a witness for two types of people who are destined for the Fire: people with whips, like the tails of cows, who beat the people (i.e., tyrannical rulers who are the enemies of their own people), and women who although clothed, are yet naked, seducing and be seduced, their hair styled like the tilted humps of camels. These will not enter Paradise nor will its fragrance even reach them, although its fragrance reaches a great distance."

Thus, *Hijab* is an essential part of *Shari`ah*. Islam cares much about the honor of the individual and the Muslim family. So, it has laid down certain rules and obligations to protect men, women and the whole society from destruction. It has also established rules that lead Muslims to obey Allah and consequent uprightness and piety. Following are some of these rules and obligations:

1. Adultery is forbidden: Allah, the Most High, says,

   ﴾*Nor come nigh to adultery: for it is an indecent (deed) and an evil way.*﴿

   (Al-Isra': 32)

2. A man is forbidden to be alone with a woman who is not of his *Mahram* (unmarriageable person). The Prophet (pbuh) said,

   "Never a man be in privacy with a woman other than his Maharim but Satan will be the third with them."

3. Men and women are obliged to lower their gaze. Allah, Most High, says,

   ﴾*Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty. And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty ...*﴿

   (An-Nur: 30-31)

4. Muslims must ask permission before entering houses other than theirs.

5. Men are forbidden to enter a house where there is a woman - who is not of their *Maharim* - when her husband is absent.

6. Muslim women are not allowed to travel for a distance that takes a whole day without being accompanied by one of her *Maharim*.

7. Women are prohibited to give a detailed description of another woman to their husbands or to any other man.

8. Women should never apply perfume while they are out of their houses.

9. Women are forbidden to display their attractions, to expose the ornaments they wear, or to wear alluring clothes that attract the attention of others.

10. Men and women should not shake hands with each other as we see the Prophet's example. He (pbuh) said,

    "I never shake hand with women."

11. Women are ordered to be not too complaisant of speech. Islam has deeply established the concept of chastity and honored women. It looks on the society with a view to protect it from all aspects of corruption. Therefore,

    a. Islam encourages marriage, and makes it the sole pure relation by which men and women can be united.

b. It instructs Muslims not to exaggerate in the dowry.

c. It emphasizes that righteousness is the basis for choosing one's spouse.

d. It shows clearly how the husband and wife can maintain a good relationship between one another. Allah says,

﴾*And He has put love and mercy between your (hearts).*﴿

(Ar-Rum: 21)

e. Islam permits divorce, despite its being the lawful which Allah dislikes, in the case that life between the two spouses becomes impossible. By permitting divorce, Islam frees the Muslim from living with someone whom he/she dislikes. It, thereby, protects him/her from falling into sin and succumbing to temptation.

Conclusion

Dear sister! Deepen faith in your heart, flee to Allah by repentance and realize fully the responsibility you have towards yourself and your daughter. Constantly, remember the Hereafter and reflect on the everlasting delights of Paradise whose width is that of the heavens and the earth, prepared for the righteous. Fear Allah's torture in the Hell-fire whose fuel is men and stones.

Modern civilizations have made the most selfish and unfair use of women in the present age. It has reduced her to a means for exhibiting commodities in commercials, or for amusing men through her dissolute dancing or rakish laughter. It makes her responsible for receiving men in work, using make-up and appearing a smile on her face that may conceal great displeasure inside her heart. This is apart from the utmost depravity which Europe is now sinking in. Whore houses, adultery, fornication and other pictures of moral corruption bear witness to this.

In Islam, the status of woman is unique and highly-estimated. Following are some manifestations of this fact:

1. Islam sets women in a very special and privileged position. It made her take part in building the first Muslim state and share in the second pledge of Al-`Aqabah.

2. Islam urges women to fight in the cause of Allah, and whoever reads the biographies of Umm `Atiyyah, Nasibah bint Ka`b, Umm Salamah and `A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with them all) can see this clearly.

3. It gives her the right to grant asylum to any person asking for it.

4. As an honor to women in the Muslim society, Islam has stipulated that marriage should be public, certified by witnesses and a woman should have a guardian appointed for her. Furthermore, Islam honors women by setting them in a position in which men propose to them. Islam nullified all forms of false marriage such as *Shighar*[1], *Mut`ah* (temporary marriage), prostitution,

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1. The man marrying the sister or daughter of another, and in return giving his sister or daughter in order to avoid paying the usual dower.

adultery, fornication, and the so-called *`Urfi* (non-documented) marriage.

5. Islam does not humiliate the woman by forcing her to live with a husband whom she hates; rather it permits divorce. However, it limits the times of divorce to three times only.

6. Islam grants woman the right of ownership. Allah, Most High, says,

   ﴾*And in no wise covet those things in which Allah hath bestowed his gifts more freely on some of you than on others: to men is allotted what they earn, and to women what they earn: but ask Allah of His Bounty; for Allah hath full knowledge of all things.*﴿

   (An-Nisa': 32)

7. Islam has allotted a specific share of the inheritance to woman according to Allah's saying,

   ﴾*From what is left by parents and those nearest related there is a share for men and a share for women, whether the property be small or large, a determinate share.*﴿

   (An-Nisa': 7)

8. Women are equal to men in rights and duties as Allah, Most High, states,

> ﴾*And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable; but men have a degree over them. And Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise.*﴿
>
> (Al-Baqarah: 228)

This verse, in short, refers to the degree of *Qawamah*, which is meant in Allah's saying, ﴾*... but men have a degree over them.*﴿ Another verse that focuses on the meaning of *Qawamah* is,

> ﴾*Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has given the one more (strength) than the other, and because they support them from their means.*﴿
>
> (An-Nisa': 34)

My beloved daughter! On the Day of Judgement people will be divided into two parties:

a. The first is the people of Paradise who will enjoy greatly the bliss of being with the beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), and of looking towards Allah, the Most Beneficent. They will bask in the

countless blessings, which no eye has seen, no ear has heard about and no human never has expected.

b. Whereas the second is that of the people of the Fire who will suffer endless torture, eat of the tree of *Zaqqum*, drink boiling water and curse one another.

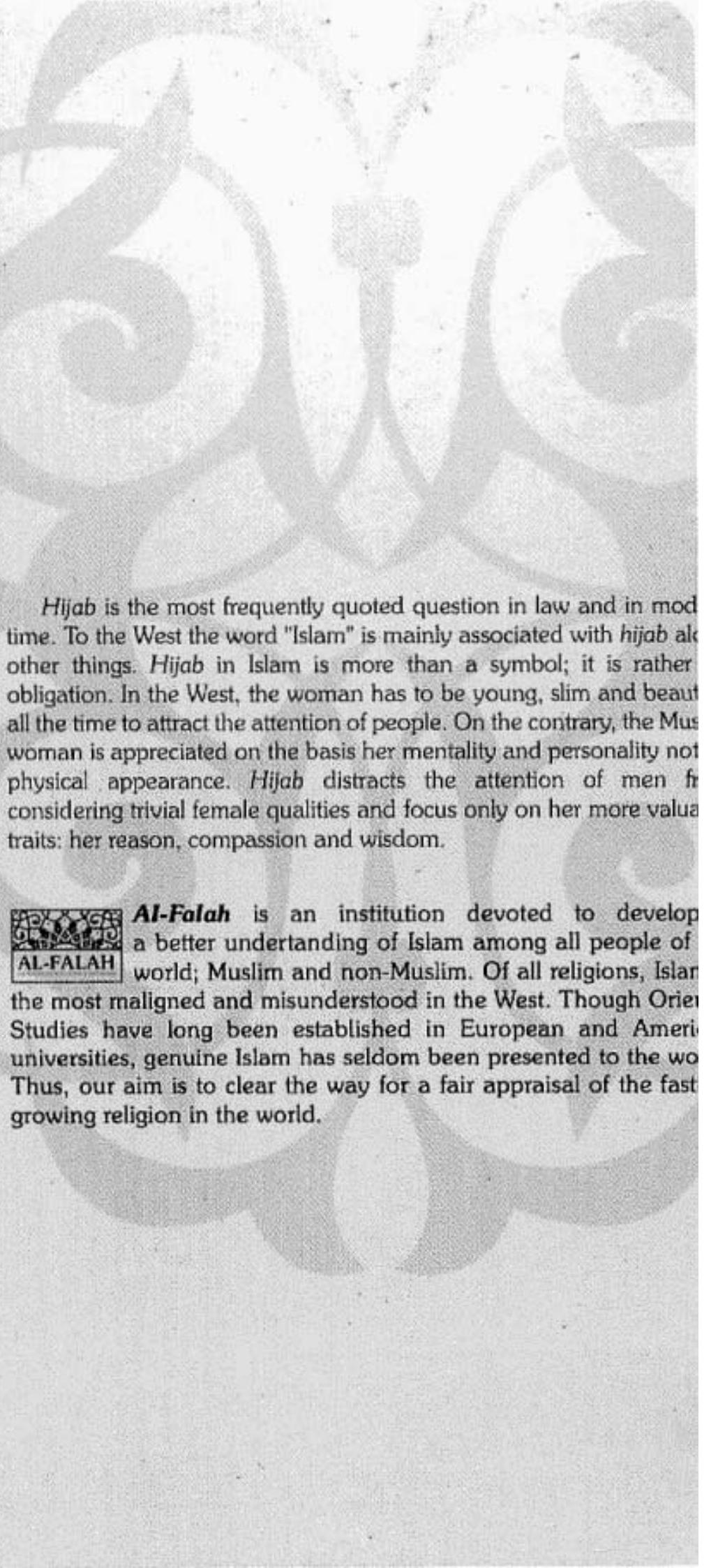
So, with whom would you like to be?

Finally, my dear daughter, be sure that the *Hijab* is:

- chastity, purity and shyness.

- obedience to our Creator.

- a divine obligation.

So, you should guide others to the Way of Allah, spread goodness in your society and kindly offer this booklet as a present to your family, relatives and friends.

Hijab is the most frequently quoted question in law and in mod time. To the West the word "Islam" is mainly associated with *hijab* al other things. *Hijab* in Islam is more than a symbol; it is rather obligation. In the West, the woman has to be young, slim and beaut all the time to attract the attention of people. On the contrary, the Mus woman is appreciated on the basis her mentality and personality not physical appearance. *Hijab* distracts the attention of men fr considering trivial female qualities and focus only on her more valua traits: her reason, compassion and wisdom.

AL-FALAH

Al-Falah is an institution devoted to develop a better undertanding of Islam among all people of world; Muslim and non-Muslim. Of all religions, Islar the most maligned and misunderstood in the West. Though Orie Studies have long been established in European and Ameri universities, genuine Islam has seldom been presented to the wo Thus, our aim is to clear the way for a fair appraisal of the fast growing religion in the world.